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THE HIGH SCHOOL JOURNAL

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School of Education of The University of North Carolina

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Greetings

THE JOURNAL extends hearty New Year Greetings to its Subscribers, Advertisers, and Readers everywhere and wishes for each and everyone of them a year of unprecedented Happiness and Prosperity.

Fighting Germany and Fighting Ignorance

As the necessity for making great sacrifices to the exigencies of war becomes more apparent, it behooves every teacher to get clear, and to help others to be clear, about the supreme necessity of maintaining, and even of augmenting, all public activities which make for the welfare of the growing generation. It is very easy for short-sighted people to argue that expenses for schools ought to be curtailed for a few years, and that the scarcity of labor makes it advisable to be lenient in the enforcement of compulsory attendance and child-labor laws.

To such arguments there is a complete and overwhelming answer. Our armies are fighting to make conditions safe for the great experiment of popular government. But interference with the processes of education would be no less a menace to the safety of popular institutions than would the triumph of Germany. Ignorance within is no less dangerous than is autocracy without. That popular government cannot exist without a trained and educated citizenry is evidenced by every dispatch from Russia. When we have beaten Germany the world will have been made a safe place in which to try out democracy; it is the school which must assure its final triumph.

France and England, in the midst of far greater sacrifices than ours, are increasing their expenditures

for education. The budget of the English Minister of Education for the current year calls for an increased expenditure of nearly twenty millions of dollars for the schools. France is considering a great new scheme of vocational education. Canada, with more than one-nineteenth of her total population at the front, has refused to lower her standards of compulsory attendance (already higher than ours in North Carolina), and to weaken her child-labor laws. Can we do less?

There is greater material prosperity in North Carolina today than ever in her history. The state is abundantly able to keep education going effectively. To do this, greatly increased expenditures are needed, in order to meet the decrease in the purchasing power of money. The situation must be met, and without delay, even if a special session of the legislature for this purpose becomes necessary.

We must remember, however, that more adequate salaries for teachers are not enough. Grave responsibilities rest upon the teachers themselves—that of urging and insisting that pupils remain in school, that of seeing that child welfare laws are not relaxed, however acute the scarcity of labor may become, that of getting sixty minutes of work out of every hour of the school day. The educational slacker is as little a good citizen as is his military brother.—H. W. C.

Contributions Invited

The editors invite contributions, letters, and constructive criticisms from superintendents, principals, high school teachers, and other school officials. Communications intended for publication should reach the Managing Editor by the 15th of the month preceding the date of publication.

National Meeting of Superintendents

The annual meeting of the Department of Superintendence of the N. E. A., was originally scheduled to meet in Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 25-March 2, but the crowded condition of the hotels there made it necessary to change the place of meeting. The next choice was Boston, Mass., but it was found that local conditions there would make it advisable to go elsewhere for this year. There were two possibilities left, Chicago, Ill., and Atlantic City, N. J. After careful investigation by Dr. Finegan, President of the Department, it was definitely decided to hold the meeting at Atlantic City, N. J., where there is ample hotel accommodation.

The meeting of the Department of Superintendence of the N. E. A., will be held, therefore, at Atlantic City, N. J., Feb. 25 to March 2.

Editors' Announcement

With this issue the School of Education of the University of North Carolina, with the assistance of a board of contributing editors whose names will be found at the head of the editorial page, begins the publication of the HIGH SCHOOL JOURNAL.

THE JOURNAL succeeds the *High School Bulletin*, which has been issued quarterly by the University since January, 1910, under the editorship of the State Inspector of High Schools. In the eight years covered by its issues, the State high schools of North Carolina have passed out of the experimental stage, and the city high schools have made greater progress than in all their previous history. The pioneering work in secondary education has been done. From now on the number of new high schools will increase only slowly; it is in increased efficiency and broader vision that progress will chiefly be apparent. The character of the problems which confront the high schools has changed so greatly that the *High School Bulletin* has felt itself, with its necessary limitations, inadequate to render the best type of service to the secondary schools of the State. It accordingly gives way to the JOURNAL, happy in the feeling that it may, by suggestions here and there, have contributed to the growth of the high schools, and, in some measure, paved the way for the success of the JOURNAL.

There are, in the opinion of the JOURNAL, two problems in the field of secondary education in North Carolina and the South which are of prime importance, and to which it purposes in the main to devote its pages. The first of these is that of securing better teaching. Too many teachers are still chained to textbooks and to lecture notes of their own college days. Elsewhere in this issue will be found two articles, one the first of a series dealing with the teaching of Latin in the high schools, the other, the first of a series dealing with certain aspects of the teaching of English. These series are written for high school teachers. The suggestions which they offer are definite and constructive. They will be followed by other series dealing with the teaching of the other important subjects in the high school curriculum.

A second problem, vital to the success of the high school, is that of better formulating its functions in a democratic civilization. Its present form it has stumbled upon rather than achieved as the result of any self-conscious purpose. Is it that best adapted to its task? Is the high school organized and administered in ways which enable it best to fulfil its mission? Can its relations with the elementary school and with the colleges be improved? The movement to-

ward re-definition of the function of the high school is assuming considerable proportions. THE JOURNAL will constantly strive to keep its readers in touch with the progress of this movement in this State and elsewhere. The war and the period of reconstruction which will follow will without doubt influence profoundly, in ways that cannot yet be foreseen, the whole structure of secondary education. THE JOURNAL will, so far as it can, aid the high schools in their task of adapting themselves sanely to the needs of a society which is witnessing a great rebirth of democracy and idealism.

The names of the board of contributing editors who will assist the editorial board of THE JOURNAL are a sufficient guarantee that it will reflect faithfully the most progressive educational sentiment in North Carolina. It will constantly publish articles by superintendents, high school principals and teachers, and others engaged in educational work in the State. In each issue will be found significant items of news from North Carolina schools. It will maintain a question and answer service of which teachers, superintendents, and members of school boards are invited to avail themselves.

But THE JOURNAL will not lose sight of the fact that North Carolina high schools are part of our national educational system, and that their future progress will depend in no small measure on their success in keeping in touch with the best that is being done in secondary education throughout the country. It will therefore frequently publish articles written by men in other States who have a definite message for North Carolina teachers. It will review articles of interest which appear in other journals, and books which bear on high school problems. It will in each issue include notices of educational events throughout the country that seem of special significance. It will publish occasional articles dealing with aspects of elementary and higher education which are of interest to high school teachers.

The success of the HIGH SCHOOL JOURNAL must ultimately depend upon its readers. It bespeaks, not only their approval, but their coöperation. It will welcome articles that are definite and constructive, pointed letters on matters of general interest, and concise notices of meetings held, progressive movements in country and city high schools, and significant educational events in any part of the State.

The Board of Editors will strive to make the JOURNAL, not the organ of any small group of men or of any institution, but of the high schools themselves. It pledges itself to a single-minded devotion to their interests.

THE EDITORS.